

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1177

To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to clarify that the Secretary of Health and Human Services has the authority to treat certain State payments made in an approved demonstration project as medical assistance under the medicaid program for purposes of a rebate agreement under section 1927 of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 12, 2001

Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. LEAHY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to clarify that the Secretary of Health and Human Services has the authority to treat certain State payments made in an approved demonstration project as medical assistance under the medicaid program for purposes of a rebate agreement under section 1927 of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Access to Affordable
3 Prescription Drugs Act of 2001”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) Access to prescription drugs is important to
7 all Americans.

8 (2) Many low-income individuals cannot afford
9 to purchase the drugs prescribed by their doctors.
10 Others skip doses or split pills contrary to their doc-
11 tor’s orders because they cannot afford to refill their
12 prescriptions.

13 (3) Low-income individuals who use their lim-
14 ited financial resources to obtain needed drugs may
15 do so by foregoing other expenditures important to
16 their health and well-being.

17 (4) One of the objectives of the medicaid pro-
18 gram set forth in section 1901 of the Social Security
19 Act (42 U.S.C. 1396) is to enable each State, as far
20 as practicable under the conditions in such State, to
21 provide medical assistance on behalf of families with
22 dependent children and of aged, blind, or disabled
23 individuals, whose income and resources are insuffi-
24 cient to meet the costs of necessary medical services.

25 (5) As part of carrying out this objective, every
26 State has elected the option of providing prescription

1 drugs as a benefit under the medicaid program,
2 thereby providing an important means of increasing
3 the access of low-income individuals to drugs pre-
4 scribed by their doctors.

5 (6) Section 1115 of the Social Security Act (42
6 U.S.C. 1315) provides the Secretary of Health and
7 Human Services with broad authority to—

8 (A) approve any experimental, pilot, or
9 demonstration project which, in the judgment
10 of the Secretary, is likely to assist in promoting
11 the objectives of the medicaid program; and

12 (B) waive compliance with any of the State
13 plan requirements of the medicaid program
14 under section 1902 of the Social Security Act
15 (42 U.S.C. 1396a), including paragraphs (14)
16 (relating to limitations on cost sharing under
17 section 1916 of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1396o))
18 and (54) (relating to applicable requirements of
19 section 1927 of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r–8)),
20 in order to conduct such a project.

21 (7) Medicaid demonstration projects help pro-
22 mote the objectives of the medicaid program, includ-
23 ing obtaining information about options for increas-
24 ing access to prescription drugs for low-income indi-
25 viduals.

1 (8) Both Maine and Vermont have, with the ap-
 2 proval of the Secretary of Health and Human Re-
 3 sources, implemented demonstration projects to ex-
 4 pand access to prescription drugs under the med-
 5 icaid program. Thousands of individuals with no
 6 other prescription drug insurance benefits are en-
 7 rolled in those programs.

8 (9) Terminating medicaid demonstration
 9 projects prior to their planned expiration dates may
 10 result in a significant waste of public funds and may
 11 be detrimental to those individuals who have come to
 12 rely on such projects.

13 **SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY**
 14 **WITH RESPECT TO TREATMENT OF CERTAIN**
 15 **PAYMENTS MADE IN AN APPROVED DEM-**
 16 **ONSTRATION PROJECT.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1115 of the Social Secu-
 18 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1315) is amended by adding at the
 19 end the following:

20 “(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, with
 21 respect to any experimental, pilot, or demonstration
 22 project conducted by a State that was approved by the
 23 Secretary under subsection (a) prior to January 31, 2001,
 24 and that waives compliance with, or makes inapplicable,
 25 certain requirements of section 1902 for the purposes of

1 establishing an outpatient prescription drug program for
2 residents of the State who are not otherwise eligible for
3 medical assistance under title XIX—

4 “(1) any expenditures, payments, or outlays by
5 the State for covered outpatient drugs under the
6 project shall be treated as payments made under the
7 State plan under title XIX for covered outpatient
8 drugs defined in section 1927(k)(2) for purposes of
9 a rebate agreement under section 1927, regardless
10 of whether such expenditures, payments, or outlays
11 of the State are offset or reimbursed, in whole or in
12 part, by rebates received under such an agreement;

13 “(2) any such expenditures, payments, or out-
14 lays by the State are consistent with the objectives
15 of the medicaid program set forth in section 1901;

16 “(3) any such expenditures, payments, or out-
17 lays by the State shall be considered amounts ex-
18 pended for medical assistance in the form of pre-
19 scribed drugs, as defined in section 1905(a)(12),
20 under the State plan under title XIX; and

21 “(4) the requirements of section 1916 shall not
22 apply with respect to any enrollment fees, premiums,
23 deductions, copayments, cost sharing, or similar
24 charges imposed upon individuals participating in
25 such project.”.

1 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
2 subsection (a) takes effect on the date of enactment of
3 this Act and applies to State expenditures, payments, or
4 outlays under an experimental, pilot, or demonstration
5 project described in section 1115(g) of the Social Security
6 Act (as added by subsection (a)) made before, on, or after
7 such date.

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